



## “We Had to Ask”

**Why did Dr. Phillips develop** *Easy Grammar* series, *Daily GRAMS*, *Easy Writing*, and her high school *Easy Grammar Ultimate Series*? Phillips laughs, “I never intended to write more than one book, the original *Easy Grammar*. However, as the need arose, I created texts to help students.”

The seed for *Easy Grammar* resulted from her teaching high school English. Phillips explains, “When my students were ill-prepared in usage, I blamed the middle-school and elementary teachers. I thought it was *their* fault. My second job as a seventh grade teacher showed me how wrong I was! The educators were teaching the books, but the texts were not set up for **mastery learning!**”

After Phillips was shown a prepositional approach, she added her own strategies and ideas. Her students were so successful that she honed her expertise and ideas to develop her first *Easy Grammar* text. Other books ensued.

*Daily GRAMS* evolved from teaching math. Math? Initially, Wanda was handed a Xeroxed packet of 5 problems. Soon, she realized that the mini-lessons enhanced mastery. Phillips shares, “I asked myself why no one had introduced this for language.” She, therefore, developed the *Daily GRAMS*.

Phillips created a format with capitalization (#1), punctuation (#2), grammar and other concepts (#3 & #4), and sentence combining (#5) for improved quality of writing, developing them for each school day (180 lessons). The acronym *GRAMS* in the title reflects their purpose: **Guided Review Aiding Mastery Skills**. Having already achieved high scores and understanding in using *Easy Grammar*, she found the *Daily GRAMS* increased students' mastery.

Wanda developed her *Easy Writing* text for students who didn't incorporate higher-level sentence structures and/or sentence variety in their writing. Teaching patterns, Dr. Phillips helped her students to write them easily. She shares that *Easy Writing*, though not needed by all students, is an amazing tool for those who do need assistance in this area."

As a high school English teacher, Phillips realized that students require strong grammar basics by seventh grade. She also learned—along the way—that some skills, without use, are lost. Wanda wrote *Easy Grammar Ultimate Series, 180 Daily Teaching Lessons* as an expansion and review at Grades 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 to ensure correct usage and mechanics. Students love the 10-minute lessons that, established cyclically, lead to enhanced mastery learning.

Dr. Phillips believes in teaching both grammar *and* writing, taking a dim view of those who are so blatantly whole-language proponents that they fail to teach grammar. (Her *Grade 8* is a love gift for those students who haven't been taught strong basics.) Currently, Dr. Phillips is completing a writing program, in her usual, easy style to guide students in learning how to write expository (informational) paragraphs. She summarizes with a smile, "My goal is to help all students learn easily; struggling students break my heart!"

